



Our Vision is to be a community filled with the hope and love of Jesus. Our Mission is to make disciples by growing & learning, worshiping & praying, and serving & connecting.

From the desk of the Pastor: Dec. 2013

As I write this, I've just finished studying the Sunday morning scriptures passages for the First Sunday of Advent. This is one of my favorite times of year. It has been my practice, for quite a while now, to try and avoid the "kitsch" of the Christmas season (tacky decorations, mall shopping, etc.) so that I can prepare my heart and mind for the true "reason for the season," which is the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I prefer an Advent spent within the walls of churches, or at home looking quietly at the lights we put up, listening to music, and contemplating what it means to wait in expectation for

"In short, we would be living the kind of lives Jesus would want us to be living in preparation for his return."

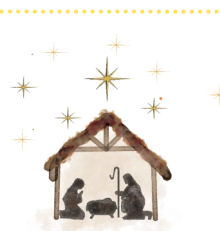
Jesus. Advent, you see, isn't just about waiting for a baby in a manger. It is about the knowledge that Jesus Christ is coming back, and all that that implies for our lives as Christians.

When one is a student of the Holy Scriptures, one finds it difficult to understand how a country that was founded upon Christian principles seems to have lost our way. The text from Mark for the First Sunday of Advent admonishes us to "Keep awake!" for we do not know when the Son of Man will come "in clouds with great power and glory" and bring about the Reign of God. Surely, if we were to bear this in mind every hour of every day, our culture would look a lot different. We would be kinder to each other, slower to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We would be involved in social outreach, treating others as we would treat our Lord. We would dwell less on ourselves, and more on others. We would pray more and complain less. We wouldn't be spending our Sundays hanging out in our pajamas, instead of going to church. We wouldn't miss an opportunity to study the bible or celebrate communion. In short, we would be living the kind of lives Jesus would want us to be living in preparation for

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Merry Christmas!

See Advent and Christmas Schedule on Page 4

Keep Up the Good Work!

Because of the uptick of new COVID infections in Carroll County, Wesley UMC is strongly encouraging that congregants socially distance, wear a mask, and use hand sanitizer throughout the entire church building to protect one another. We will continue to monitor the situation, and we appreciate your efforts to help those around you. Be well!



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 5 | Celee Montgomery | 16 | Katherine Crochunis |
| | H. Lee Smith | | Betsy Sennett |
| 6 | Cole Graf | 18 | Fran Crispin |
| 8 | Jaime Green (nee DeVilbiss) | | Jessica Sichel |
| | | 20 | Cheryl Gore |
| 11 | Bonnie Catron | 21 | Cheyenne Graf |
| 14 | Roxane Brewer | | Wayne Rill |
| 15 | Michael Eastwood | 23 | Kyle Phillips |
| | Randy Kurtz | 26 | Logan Rill |
| | Madison Smith | 30 | Jonathan Elmo |
| | Charlie Weaver | 31 | James Rill |



- 16 Jason & Lana Montgomery
- 20 Eric & Laura Zilberman
- 26 Dan & Carol Pfoutz
- 29 Curtis & Cheryl Gore



Updating Your Info.

Please contact Sandy Cole, Membership Secretary, by e-mail at baldor1@comcast.net or by phone at 410-876-5295 if your name, address, phone number or e-mail address has changed. Feel free to contact her with any other changes you require. Additionally, if you spot an error in the Directory, please let her know so she can correct it.

Our Condolences...

We offer our condolences to the Martin and Halley families on the passing of John Caples Martin on November 5, 2021. May God hold you close as you mourn John's passing and celebrate his life. He is already greatly missed.



Contact Information Updates

Carol Pfoutz – New Email Address
carolpfoutz@gmail.com

Tim Pfoutz – New Address
 1571 Spring Gate Dr., Unit 6410
 McLean, VA 22102



Family and Friends to Keep in Prayer (Cards and Calls Welcome!)

Peggy Dovell
 2322 Susanann Drive
 Hampstead, MD 21074
 (410) 374-0199

Betty Horner
 Golden Crest Asst. Living
 4110 St. Paul Rd.
 Hampstead, MD 21074
 (410) 374-6219

Stewart Graf
 Longview Nursing Home
 Room 139
 3332 Main St.
 Manchester, MD 21102

Jean Colton
 Sunrise Senior Living
 Room 103
 45 Washington Road
 Westminster, MD 21157
 (410) 857-9013



Have a New Neighbor? We can help welcome them home! Contact Reenie Harris at (410) 848-1121.



Thank you to all the Prayer Warriors for working so hard on your prayers for Mom & our family.

God heard your prayers. It has been a most difficult year and still working through some new health conditions; but knowing the strength of this church through the power of God, we will prevail.

Thank you again, Cherie

Dear Outreach Comm.
AKA.—Grammy

Us ladies here at the women's Rescue Mission would like to thank you for the wonderful dinner. The Lasagna was so cheesy. The cupcakes were so enjoyed by all of us. Thank you for you time and efforts. Your time was greatly appreciated. GOD Bless.

Martha Harris wishes to thank the Wesley congregation for all of the support and love and cards she received earlier this season. She and her brother were facing health concerns; both are home now. She extends her gratitude to the Wesley family.

Dear Friends,

In our day-to-day ministry operations in the Dominican Republic, we strive to share hope with residents of the 14 communities in which we serve. For some, 'hope' is receiving food for nutritious meals; for others, it is the hope of fellowship in an otherwise lonely existence; and for yet others, it is the ultimate hope of eternal life with Jesus Christ.

You fill an important role in sharing hope in all these ways and more through your prayers, participation on or support of mission teams, and financial gifts. We appreciate you, as do the many men, women, and children in these communities who are encouraged by your support!... *We're grateful for the generosity of the Wesley Church Family!*

In Christ alone, Marty Hogan, Executive Director

Dear Wesley UMC,

Northeast Social Action Program (NESAP) is very grateful for our community partners, we are so blessed to have people like you in our corner. Your generous gift provided much needed resources to the most vulnerable in our community. We stand firm to fulfill our mission of helping all that can work toward self-sufficiency. Thanks to people like you our doors are still open, serving one person at a time. We appreciate you and your support of our mission...The need continues as many are still trying to recover. We were only able to serve because of the generosity of people like you.

Thank you again for your generous gift and please continue to keep the NESAP ministry in your prayers. Over this Holiday Season we will continue to be God's feet on the street, feeding those in need and helping those that have fallen to get back up.

God Bless, Donn Dietrich

Thank you for supporting our mission

Pastor's Message (*Continued*)



his return. Being "watchful" and "awake" is about knowing that Jesus can come back any minute. Are we ready...or not? I don't know about you, but when God's angels "gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven," I don't want to be found being unkind or hostile to someone else, full of complaints, sleeping in on Sunday morning, or passing up opportunities to worship and serve. How about you? Are YOU ready to receive Jesus?

"But about that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come..." (Mark 13:32).

Love, Rev. Amy

Advent and Christmas Events Calendar

Please join us this holiday season at Wesley UMC! We would love to welcome you to the church as we prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth.

Dec. 5th: 2nd Sunday in Advent — Peace!

9:30 AM Advent Carnival: Sunday School Classes (and friends!) combine to share Advent-related activities.
11 AM Worship Service

Dec. 12th: 3rd Sunday in Advent — Joy!

9:30 AM Sunday School
Choral Cantata during the 11 AM Worship service; Cookie Walk before and after the 11 AM Worship Service

Dec. 19th: 4th Sunday in Advent — Love!

9:30 AM Sunday School
11 AM Outdoor Live Nativity Christmas Pageant with animals (weather permitting).
If the weather is foul, we will hold an indoor Christmas Pageant

Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve 11 PM Worship Service with Candlelight

Dec. 26th: 1st Sunday after Christmas 11 AM Contemporary Worship Service (No Sunday School)

Jan. 2nd: Epiphany Sunday! (No Sunday School) 11 AM Worship Service

December Lectionary... GET INTO THE WORD!

December 5 (2nd Sunday of Advent—Peace): Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12 (3rd Sunday of Advent—Joy): Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19 (4th Sunday of Advent—Love): Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

December 24 (Christmas Eve/Day): Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December 31/January 1 (Watch Night/New Year): Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46



Wesley United Methodist Women's News



Wesley UMW meet on November 18th with 8 members present. Reenie Harris provided us with a yummy dessert. We would like to thank everyone that donated to our bake table on the Nov. 13th. We made \$620 to help us with our mission work. Thank you everyone so much for your support.

Our program was our annual Thank Offering. We take a special offering to go to the conference to help support women and children ministries.

Our next meeting will be December 16th at 10am in the church social hall.

Connie Wiegel, President

Wesley UMC is Hiring!

Job Description: **YOUTH GROUP LEADER**

Salary: \$15/hour, 5 hours/week, based upon 44 weeks annually, totaling \$3,300

Start date: January, 2022

Description: Develop a spiritually-driven youth program for grades 6 through 12. Program should be consistent with United Methodist theology and polity and be designed to inspire youth in our local community to serve Jesus Christ. Position requires a paid 90-day probationary period.

Supervision: Pastor; Chairperson Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Duties and Responsibilities: Design, develop, and manage a comprehensive and vibrant Christian youth group program for 6th through 12th graders; work closely with the Pastor to assure program meets United Methodist standards; participate and assist Church leadership with the planning of Christian events and activities. Provide spiritual leadership to youth. Maintain logs of completed tasks, current events, and future activities. Attend monthly meetings and/or submit monthly reports to Wesley Administrative Council.

Minimum Qualifications: Self-motivated leader with excellent communication skills. Proficient with computer programs, internet research and related tools for marketing and promotion; adept at various social media including but not limited to texting, emails, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Prior professional training and/or education in Christian youth ministry is desired but not required.

Position requires ability to physically interact with youth in playing indoor and outdoor games, activities such as camp, Conference-involved events such as ROCK, and community service projects, such as Camp Wesley, Volunteers in Mission, etc. Position also requires familiarity with Safe Sanctuary requirements in order to incorporate these requirements, policies and procedures into the youth program. Ability to successfully complete a criminal background check and fingerprint verification is mandatory.

Provide references upon request.

Contact: Forward resumes with cover letter via Church mailing address, or email to Linda S. Yost, Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee, LJYost@verizon.net

Christmas Family Gift Cards



Again this Christmas, Wesley Church will sponsor several families through the NESAP Christmas Help Program. Instead of taking tags from the Christmas tree, Outreach is asking if you would purchase gifts cards in any denomination you would like. The following are suggestions of where to purchase gift cards:

Target
Weis
Kohl's

Walmart
Boscov
Amazon

There is a Christmas box in the back of the church for you to drop your gift cards in. The last day to donate gift cards will be Sunday, December 12th. Any questions, please contact Cindy, (410) 596-5391 or candcmyatt@gmail.com.

Let's Do... the Cookie Walk!



WESLEY OUTREACH COOKIE WALK IS BACK!

December 12th

after Sunday School & Worship Service
in the Fellowship Hall

(a few changes will take place for your protection and the
safe handling of cookies)

Free Will Donations will be Accepted

If you can volunteer to bake a batch of homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk, please contact Cindy at 410 596-5391 or candcmyatt@gmail.com.

~ Reflections on W³ ~

In the words of “The Christmas Song” sung by Nat King Cole, there were “kids from 1—92.” The participants in Wesley Women’s Weekend (W³) didn’t quite fit those ages, but we were from 19—75+. A wide range of ages, talents, and ideas of the 21 beautiful women who attended in October 2021.

A group of us met for lunch in Gettysburg on Friday. Despite the rain, we brightened the restaurant, since several customers chatted with us and enquired about our group. After a brief stop for weekend supplies, we travelled to Tree of Peace Lodge at Camp Eder near Biglersville, PA. We giggled and ran through the pouring rain helping each other to unpack our cars. There were card games, a delicious comfort meal on a chilly night, and a spirited game of Guesstures. Some of us chatted late into the night before settling down for sleep.

A few early risers made coffee and tea, whispering our conversations so not to disturb our sisters who slept in. A warm and hearty breakfast was served and more talking and laughter. Morning devotions were on the topic of JOY. We shared ideas and explored scriptures that explained God’s plan of joy for his children. We then designed and painted garden rocks to express our own interpretations of joy and sang multiple songs of joy, as well. The afternoon provided opportunities for hiking, a trip to a local Farmer’s Market, or simply relaxing with friends inside our cozy lodge. We shared a delicious family style meal at Hickory Bridge in Fairfield—a new activity for W³, and one that everyone liked. The night brought clear skies and some enjoyed talking and singing by the roaring campfire, while others read, played cards or board games, and enjoyed each others’ company.

Sunday morning, again, brought a few early risers and everyone trickled in just in time for a yummy breakfast before walking or driving to the Chapel on the hill for Sunday services. Our subject was “Godwinks” and we sang numerous hymns that connected to the texts. A few of us told of our experiences with “Godwinks” and what positive changes they have brought about. After the service, there were warm words and goodbye hugs as some friends left directly for home, while others walked through the colorful autumn woods to the lodge to pack up and leave.

A HUGE thank you to all who planned, organized, cooked, cleaned up, presented, and most of all shared Christian love and friendship with one another. See you next year!

Planned Giving

“It is not enough to look back. We need to look forward. There is much that needs to be done (children taught, the sick visited, those who mourn to be comforted, and those in trouble to be helped). Wesley is to stand as a beacon to the love and power of God; its members are to be rays spreading out to give light in a dark world”

– Excerpted from Material Prepared for Wesley’s Bicentennial (1987)

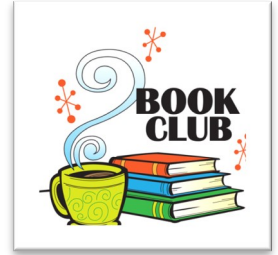
Wesley has a rich history, a wonderful present, and a future full of promise. How can we, living in the present, help plant the seeds for our church’s future? Consider remembering our Wesley UMC in your Last Will and Testament. Planned giving is one way to provide a legacy to your commitment to Christ, helping Wesley to continue to stand as that “beacon to the love and power of God.” Talk to your family. Talk to your advisors. Learn more. One source of information on planned giving is the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation, Inc. You can find them on the web at maumlegacy.org. At Wesley, feel free to contact Laura Waltrup, Finance Committee.



News from the Book Club

Wesley Book Club meets at MJ's Café & Baking Co. in Manchester, MD, usually on the last Thursday of each month at **12 Noon**. All are welcome! Here are the **Wesley UMC Book Club reading selections and meeting dates through January**.

- **Thursday, December 30th:** *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline (How orphans were transported across the US in the early 1900s.)
- **Thursday, January 27th:** *The Winemaker's Wife* by Kristen Hamel (An historical novel.)



Happy reading! Reenie Harris

Notes from Charge Conference • November 16, 2021, at 6:30 PM

Attendees: Jan Kurtz, Rev. Stanley Harrell, Rev. Dr. Frank Richardson, Jr., Matthew Sichel, Jessica Sichel, Laura Waltrup, John Sies, Jennifer Ejik, Linda Yost, Jonathan Yost (Sandy Cole attempted to attend; however, she experienced technical difficulties with the Zoom connection).

The meeting was opened at 6:33 PM by Rev. Ann LaPrade.

Rev. LaPrade lifted up Rev. Amy to be kept in prayer and gave thanks for Rev. Dr. Frank Richardson filling in.

Barbara Allen was also lifted up regarding the passing of her mother-in-law.

This was followed by prayer, an introduction by Rev. LaPrade, who said that this was her fifth year serving as a D.S. and that she enjoyed Church Conferences and the connections she made with them, and an Introduction of the District Administrator, John Gauthier. John also gave short remarks about appreciating words of thanks and so forth. A run through of the evening was given, and the meeting continued.

Rev. LaPrade gave an introduction to Thea Becton, the District Lay Person and a short recorded message from Thea was shared, in which she spoke words of encouragement (look to the hills) and a message of peace.

John Gauthier then gave a short presentation on facts about the Baltimore Suburban District and mentioned the importance of laity.

Worship followed:

- Opening Prayer
- Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19
- Hymn: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (2 verses)
- Closing Prayer

Then began a time of "Holy Conferencing," when the charges represented at the meeting gave presentations which were to center around the following two questions:

1. In what way(s) has the past 17 months changed the shape and direction of your church's ministry?
2. How will those changes carry you into the future?

Jessica Sichel gave answers to the questions based on information collected by both her and Vicky Wilmer, some of which included the following:

- Collecting food

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- Making masks for the community and the congregation
- Starting Takeout Tuesday
- Starting direct communication with our members in the directory
- Meeting in person outdoors and livestreaming
- Using Zoom as a resource
- Using YouTube for Sunday School lessons
- Changing our VBS format
- Having an “ownership of cleanliness” —a concern for protecting ourselves and each other—that kicked in and continues to some extent
- WRM and Addiction Healing Center work trips
- Easter Zoom songs as a group
- Walk-through and recording of Lenten shadow boxes
- Drive-Thru Suppers
- Continuing to have things like the Book Club
- Holding an outdoor live nativity in December 2020
- Continuing to livestream/Zoom, as refined by time and need
- Finishing establishing a free pantry outside of our church entryway that will serve any in the community
- Using the new pavilion built by Tommy Smith as his Eagle Scout project
- Discussing prayer and how to incorporate it into our lives and the life of the church in our small group ministry
- Continuing UMM, UMW, Small Group Ministry, Book Club, GriefShare, and our Advent/Lenten Devotional
- Continuing to serve one another in ministry and love
- Remembering the importance of faith without works and works without faith

The business of the Church Conference continued with voting. Wesley voted as follows:

- Rev. Amy’s Clergy Compensation Form: Unanimously in favor
- The Nominations Report: The “ayes” carried, none were against, and abstentions were not asked for.
- Matt Sichel’s Candidacy for Ordained Ministry: Unanimously in favor
- Lay Servant—Matt Sichel: Affirmed
- Lay Servant—Linda Yost: Affirmed
- Inactive Membership Report: The “ayes” carried, one was against, and one abstained.

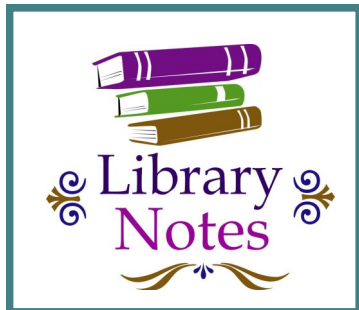
The meeting continued with Announcements:

- The “Seeds of Security” Virtual Gala, themed “What’s Love Got to Do With It?”, is coming up. It is a benefit to support working against domestic violence and various programs and fundraisers. There will be music, a guest speaker, dancing, and a silent auction. There is an Italian dinner, as well. The link is on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website and in the eConnection.
- The BW Conference is hosting “Training Tuesdays: <https://www.bwcumc.org/events/training-tuesdays/>
- The Peninsula Delaware and BW Conferences are hosting a Youth event from January 7th through 9th of 2022.

Closing remarks were offered by Rev. LaPrade: we are wrestling with all sorts of major issues. Are we still rising? WE may feel sometimes tired and depleted; circumstances are never the whole story. We live in hope, a dawning comprehension of the wideness and depth of God’s love. People are called to love into a broad measure of love and kindness. There is a way of life where we are “most wonderfully kind.” Can we say that about our church? What about reaching the broken and lost? How do we the church BE the church? Differences between us are not enough to break up God’s unity in us.

A closing prayer was offered and a benediction given.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Sichel, Church Administrator



This month's newsletter contains a mixture of fiction, non-fiction, and a DVD –all centered on the blessed time of the birth of our Savior. A personal favorite is the book by Ema McKinley. It's truly inspiring. Enjoy!

A Midnight Clear by Marble Cove [Patti Berg] (Fiction) It's Christmastime, and surprises and miracles abound! Margaret is decorating her gallery windows and preparing her shop for the annual Christmas Stroll, when mysterious flashes from Orlean Point Light lead her to a young boy drawing a masterful rendering of the lighthouse. Margaret feels a strong urge to reach out to this gifted young artist, but can she gain his confidence and help bring about a much-needed miracle for him and his broken family?

Meanwhile, Diane's already-busy schedule is taxed when she takes in some unexpected guests and nervously accepts an invitation to speak before a group about her writing. Shelley is trying to juggle holiday orders, an overexcited four-year-old who can't wait for Santa Claus, and a failing boiler that leads to worse problems. Beverly makes an astonishing discovery about Jeff Mackenzie and learns the real story of Edward Maker's involvement with Orlean Point Light. And when the four friends gather one stormy day to pray for Edward, they experience yet another miracle of Marble Cove. Volume 7 in the Miracles of Marble Cove series.

Rush of Heaven by Ema McKinley (180) Eighteen years after a tragic workplace accident, "crooked lady" Ema McKinley, who doctors believed would never again rise from her wheelchair, experienced an extraordinary healing when Jesus appeared in her room on Christmas Eve. This miraculous encounter is more than an inspiring, compelling story that will capture your attention. It is an unforgettable rush of truth that will open your heart to find lasting joy and peace, no matter what you're going through. You will see your life from a whole new hope-filled perspective.

An Amish Christmas by Cynthia Keller (Fiction). Meg Hobart has everything: a happy marriage, a beautiful home, and three wonderful children. But it all comes crashing down around her the day she learns that her husband, James, has been living a lie – and has brought the family to financial ruin. Penniless and homeless, the Hobarts pack up what little they still possess and leave behind their golden life for good. A twist of fate forces them to take refuge with a kind Amish family. Her uncooperative brood confined to the Amish world of hard work and tradition, their futures entirely uncertain, Meg fears she can never make her family whole again. This is a story of forgiveness and the power of love.

The Census and the Star: Exploring the Mysteries of Jesus' Birth by Warren Baltz (Audio-Visual). This 30 minute DVD explores the mysterious circumstances of Christ's birth. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem by order of the Emperor, Augustus Caesar. This census has long confounded historians seeking to reconcile the Bible with recorded history. The evidence to address that is both intriguing and insightful. The mysteries continue when a star appears to announce the birth of the King of the Jews. What was the star? What did it look like? When did it appear? Foreign Magi, or Wise Men, saw the star and followed it to Jerusalem and Bethlehem seeking Jesus. These little-understood figures were among the first to discover Jesus in what was surely a life-changing, as well as history-making event. Find answers to what really happened on that first Christmas.

God Bless Us, Every One by Carole Jefferson (Fiction). It's December, and Silver Peak is preparing for its annual Victorian-themed Holly & Ivy Days celebration. Sadie Speers is asked to gather antiques and Christmas memorabilia to display during the opera house's presentation of a one-man staging of *A Christmas Carol*. Among the treasures she plans to display is Edwin Marshall's signed first-edition copy of the book. But when it vanishes without a trace, a stricken Sadie desperately sets out to find it before Edwin discovers it's gone. The disappearance of the book, an upsetting revelation from her grandson, and run-ins with the play's surly director conspire to make Sadie feel like the embodiment of Ebenezer Scrooge. Can Silver Peak's unique versions of Tiny Tim and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come help her regain her flagging holiday spirit? Volume 15 in the Mysteries of Silver Peak series.

Our library is for you to use and enjoy. Remember to sign your name and date to the card found in the back of the book. File the card in the yellow box under the letter that begins your last name. When you return a book, find the card, put the return date on the card, and put the card in the pocket of the book. You can stack books on the shelf beside the yellow box or on the desk; the librarians will re-shelve them. Please return borrowed items within 6 months.

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(Library Notes Continued from Previous Page)

Donated items may be left stacked on the library desk. **Please** leave a paper with your name and the names of the donated items so that we can give you proper credit. Remember that we only take items suitable for a church library. The librarians reserve the right to determine suitability.

Bonnie Catron and Nan Lishman, Librarians

Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes • November 10, 2021

Attendees: Jan Kurtz, Vicky Wilmer, Linda Yost, Connie Weigel, Cindy Myatt, Madison Smith, Kim Peake, Pam and Chet Phillips

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported that all of our bills are paid.

Meals: Rev. Amy does not need more meals at this time; Norma will need them when she is home from the hospital

Soup Sale: Cindy \$798; 2020 \$674

College Student Program: Vicky/ Madison have identified 10 students who are in college and gift cards will be sent.

Christmas Families: We will ask the congregation to purchase gift cards for families in need.

Operation Christmas Child

- Brenda has collected 29 boxes.
- She needs a check for postage for \$291 on Saturday

Food Pantry: Ready to go. The shelves have been lined.

NESAP Thanksgiving Food Drive: Connie and Jan will take care of delivery on Nov. 22

Meals for Rescue Mission

- Nov – UMW Chicken dinner on Saturday
- Dec – Freezer Meal

Cookie Walk:

- Will take place on Dec 12th.
- Cookies will be in the kitchen and people will select from the window.
- We will accept free will donation.

Refugee Support: Contacted St. John's Lutheran Church's pastor; shared information on the program.

Baked Potato Luncheon Carryout: Jan 30th (snow date Feb 6th)

Pie Sale: April 10th



Administrative Council Meeting Minutes • October 27, 2021, at 7 PM

Attendees: Jess Sichel, Connie Wiegel, Jan Kurtz, Vicky Wilmer, Linda Yost, Brenda Kennedy, Jen Ejk, Jonathan Yost, Denny Rill, Michelle Hudgins, John Sies, Sandy Cole, Matt Sichel, Rose Sichel, Linda Hollman, and Laura Waltrup.

The meeting was opened at 7:02 PM with a **devotion** offered by Jen Ejk based on Psalm 19:105-106. Jen will also share the devotional for the November Ad. Council meeting.

The **minutes from the September 2021** meeting were approved.

SPRC: Linda Yost

- SPRC met on October 13 and October 20, 2021.
- The Youth Leader job description is in the process of being updated to include physical expectations of the job.
- During the month of October, in Rev. Amy's absence, the pulpit has been filled by Linda Yost, Matt Sichel, and Stephanie Halley. Rev. Dick Harden, of Pleasant Grove UMC, has been on call for pastoral care.
- Beginning November 1, 2021, Rev. Dr. Frank Richardson will begin a two-month position as Interim Pastor for Wesley. His first sermon will be on November 7, 2021. He will provide pastoral care and will have some office hours, and will meet with parishioners by appointment as well. He has asked that we not pay him as he wishes to do this for his good friend, Rev. Amy, gratis.
- SPRC will continue to be in prayer for Rev. Amy's full recovery as she is hopeful to return in January.

Trustees: Linda Yost

- Trustees met virtually on October 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Only Bryce Davey and Linda were present.
- Trustees Committee voted to have both large maple trees removed from the parsonage yard, as both are dying and posing a threat to parsonage and pavilion. C2 Crane and Tree Service will do the work on November 2, 2021, weather permitting. Cost: \$1,800.
- Per a request by the Administrative Council, Trustees have obtained one outside assessment on presence and remediation of mold in the parsonage basement. Green Home Solutions found mold throughout the basement rafters, ceiling areas and some on the walls in the unfinished portion of the basement. Cost for remediation: \$3,900. They waived the initial assessment fee. Trustees will continue the process of obtaining additional assessments.
- As previously reported, Boy Scouts of America has filed for bankruptcy and has settled multiple cases of sexual assault. The chartered organizations (churches, etc.) were not included in the settlement and thus are vulnerable for lawsuits. The United Methodist Church has changed its recommendation that the current charter we have with our Troop will remain in effect until March 31, 2022.
- It was reported by Matt Sichel, who was at church with a Small Group gathering, to me, that on Monday night, during the intense rain storm, he saw no leaking in the Choir Room or the Narthex. The gutters and downspouts were efficiently routing the water away from the building.
- I appreciate all of you who have helped point out issues at the church. The Trustees endeavor to repair and/or replace as quickly as possible.
- The question of how to access the stained glass window over the door in the sanctuary has come up [with regard to changing the lightbulb]. Matt Sichel said that access to the light should be from the same panel as the larger choir window light. He also said that Stanley Harrell was in charge of that project in the past.

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Matt Sichel

- Annual Conference just finished, with the Ordination ceremony taking place today. Twenty-seven deacons/elders were brought forward for ordination. Bishop Easterling preached an encouraging message.
- Conference was originally planned to be in a hybrid format happening at the Baltimore Hilton, but last month, those plans were scrapped, and we did the entire session, except for those in the ordination service, virtually.

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- Bishop Easterling's opening worship was an encouraging message which reflected on the strength of the Conference during the pandemic: "We have not cowered, we have not collapsed, we have not conceded. No, we rise! We are rising to claim a new day, rising to model what it really looks like to live, love, and liberate as one. We're rising to leverage our gifts, blessings, and resources to help others rise as well; rising to grow in grace as we heal the wounds of the past, and in that healing, join hands as the Beloved Community. We are rising, Baltimore-Washington Conference, and don't you let anyone with a contrary, contorted, or conflicted message tell you otherwise. We rise united! ... The state of our conference is strong. We are still one!"
- Though the words proclaimed "we are still one," the final action of the Conference was to pass a [resolution](#) to support the [Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation](#). The resolution was proposed by the leaders of Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (BWARM) and the Wesleyan Covenant Association B-W Chapter. Representing two opposite theological perspectives, the leaders said schism *already* exists in the UMC, and the Protocol is the best solution to prevent that division from further destroying local churches and the broader witness of the UMC. The resolution calls on the delegates to next August's General Conference to pass the Protocol, which will enable the United Methodist Church to separate into at least two bodies: a Post-Separation United Methodist Church (more progressive), and a new [Global Methodist Church](#) (traditionalist). Though there was some debate, and a failed attempt to amend, the resolution passed with a 79%-21% vote. The BW Conference is the 6th American Conference to endorse the Protocol.
- The conference closed 9 churches which could no longer support ministry for various reasons and merged 3 others into one. The nearest closed church to Wesley is Falls Road UMC which is just south of the intersection of Falls Rd. & Black Rock Rd. south of Hampstead. That church had been struggling for a long time. The building now joins Boring UMC's building as being listed "for sale."
- The Conference passed a budget, but there was extended debate on how the apportionment formula should be calculated in light of church expenditure abnormalities during COVID. They finally settled on using a 3-year average of expenditures rather than simply 2020 alone, as would be the normal practice. Not all members felt that this solution was equitable.
- Reports from the Discipleship Council and the We Rise United initiative undergirded the conference's commitment to becoming an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and anti-racist church, and provided information about resources for those involved in this work, which remains a conference priority.
- During the online session, a \$1,000 denominational One Matters award was presented to Elderslie St. Andrews UMC in Baltimore. The award honors churches that have brought at least one new member into their churches last year by profession of faith after having previously had none.
- Members also passed three social action-related resolutions calling for the BWC to become a green annual conference, to endorse an amendment to Maryland's constitution on environmental human rights, and to declare gun violence a public health emergency.
- You can watch the entire session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciz17msyZOI> (Day 1)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOgqNVe_pCA&t=29210s (Day 2)
- Your Lay Member to Annual Conference hopes to pass the Board of Ordained Ministry exam in February, and then I can be commissioned as a Provisional Deacon at next year's Baltimore-Washington Conference, which is to be held in the early summer. That would mean you'd need a new Lay Member, as I will be a Provisional Clergy Member at that time. I'm also looking forward to being able to be in person again next year, after having done two years of Conferences virtually.
- There were some interesting issues with voting, particularly with six to seven hundred people voting at once, so the vote was made based on last names.
- Matt was asked if the next Annual Conference [and General Conference] were both planned to be in person. Matt said that the overseas delegates are getting vaccinated at a higher level. Both are planned to be in person.

Outreach: Vicky Wilmer. [Please see notes in November 2021 issue of The Wesley Journal.]

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Outreach came with a proposal to the Administrative Council. Outreach has been looking into different options of helping Afghanistan refugees. A one year commitment for sponsorship for a family coming to the United States would cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000. This would depend on housing, basic needs, location, etc. We would not be able to sponsor a family on our own; however, to look further, Ad. Council should have a say. A separate committee would be asked to make the decision. Employees of the Federal Government need to be careful, as they cannot support certain foreign-related activities/persons. A separate fund would be developed, as the funds would thus not be able to come out of our general treasury. Outreach is thinking to explore the idea and connect with other churches to sponsor a family. The group is looking at working with a Lutheran Church organization and certain local churches. The committee is thinking that this would be a good experience to get familiar with the situation and people, providing an opportunity to get to know people on a personal level.

- Jess Sichel asked if this would be a financial commitment only; the answer to this was no. It could involve helping with transportation, schooling, etc. Involving other churches could spread the work around.
- John Sies asked if the individuals [families] had gone through background research and such? Jan Kurtz stated that the federal government would do the vetting process for persons from Afghanistan.
- The effort could be cooperative in mission, including being cooperative between denominations.
- Matt Sichel asked if NESAP could house this. The answer was no; however, they may be able to help in a supportive capacity.
- It was noted that this was like participating in the Ulster Project.
- One concern was previously voiced about the year-long commitment with the denominational issues happening next August.
- **A motion was made to explore and form a separate committee to report to Outreach looking at involving other churches in the area to support refugees resettling to the U.S. A vote was taken; 15 were in favor; 1 was against; 1 abstained. The motion passed.**

Budget: Laura Waltrup

- Laura showed some key points on the proposed budget and reviewed a few things. [The reports can be obtained through the Wesley office.]
- Some figures may change a bit.
- Laura reminded the group that the budget is a plan; it does not mean that we have the money in hand for us.
- Jess Sichel asked if we are preparing for fallout for the budget. Laura responded with a question: are we thinking that our local church will immediately respond after General Conference 2022? Matt Sichel stated that Rev. Amy had said a while ago that we should vote on it as soon as possible; Matt also gave presumptions of the Baltimore-Washington Conference's probably response. Discussion ensued. It was noted that the budget is the projection of what we are hoping for. John Sies spoke of faith to move forward. Laura said that if there are bad thoughts of the income versus the expenses, we will reconsider as a group.
- **The budget was put up for an approval vote; the "ayes" carried the vote with no nays and no abstentions.**

Fall Supper: Vicky Wilmer noted that the upcoming supper is a major fundraiser and that the numbers are way down. We need to get the word out! We need lots of people. It should be published on the church sign, on the website, and on the Wesley email list. If people are available to help Thursday, Friday, Saturday, they should contact Pam Phillips. Goodies are needed for the UMW bake table.

Last Notes:

- Thank you to Jan Kurtz for picking up leadership.
- Prayer concerns were taken up.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 8:18 PM after prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jess Sichel, Recording Secretary



DECEMBER 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Regular Worship Schedule:</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship Time 11 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>The services will also be live-streamed on our website and on YouTube for those who would like to view them that way.</p>		<p>1 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM Visitation 12 PM at J&Ps Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>2 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>3 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 2nd Sunday of Advent Advent Carnival! Regular Worship Schedule</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Girl Scouts 6:30 to 8 PM in the Fellowship Hall & Choir Room Last GriefShare Meeting 6:30 to 8:30 PM</p>	<p>8 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM SPRC Meeting 7:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>9 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>10 Office CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 3rd Sunday of Advent Choral Cantata Cookie Walk Christmas Gift Cards Due Poinsettia Orders Due Regular Worship Schedule</p>	<p>13 Small Group Gathering 6:30 PM Potluck (Fellowship Hall & Library)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM <i>January Journal Submissions Due!</i></p>	<p>16 UMW Meeting at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 PM</p>	<p>17 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 4th Sunday of Advent Outdoor Live Nativity & Christmas Pageant Regular Worship Schedule After-Church Lunch Bunch following Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Girl Scouts 6:30 to 8 PM in the Fellowship Hall & Choir Room</p>	<p>22 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM</p>	<p>23 Office Drop-In 1 to 3 PM</p>	<p>24 Office CLOSED 11 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 </p>
<p>26 11 AM Worship Service (Contemporary Style; No Sunday School)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Office CLOSED</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Book Club at MJ's Café at 12 Noon</p>	<p>31</p>	<p></p>

SCHEDULE OF



WORSHIP



We're on the Web! Visit us at:
<https://wesleychurch-hampstead.org>

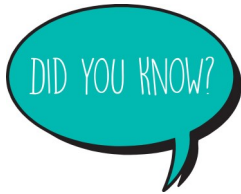
Phone: (410) 374-4027
Email: wesley@wesleychurch-hampstead.org

Office Drop-In Hours: See Calendar Inside!

We seek to be a community filled with the hope and love of Jesus.

Worship Participants for December:

- December 5 (2nd Sunday of Advent): Liturgist—Linda Hollman, Acolyte—Will Otwell, Advent Wreath—Kurtz
- December 12 (3rd Sunday of Advent): Liturgist—John Sies, Acolyte—Will Otwell, Advent Wreath—Otwell
- December 19 (4th Sunday of Advent): Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, Advent Wreath—The Sichel Family
- December 24 (Christmas Eve): Liturgist—Matt Sichel, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel, Advent Wreath—TBA
- December 26: Worship Leader—Lisa Kemp, Acolyte—Isaac Sichel



- ↪ **Advent & Christmas Events Calendar**—See page 4
- ↪ **Wesley UMC is hiring!** See page 5
- ↪ **Christmas Families & Cookie Walk**—See page 6

...and more!

The Wesley Journal December 2021 Issue



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 The Rev. Amy Sarah Lewis-Rill, Pastor
 Address Service Requested